

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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Conyers Condemns Bush Administration Policy of Ethnic and Racial Profiling

On Saturday, March 30, John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, addressed a gathering of national Muslim leaders at the annual leadership conference of the Council on American-Islamic Relations:

"The Bush Administration's practices of ethnic and racial profiling amount to a broad intimidation strategy against the Arab and Muslim American communities. The Administration argues that hunting down a terrorist is as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack. Unfortunately, its approach has been to shrink the haystack by intimidating hard working immigrants to such an extent that many of them have decided to leave the country altogether."

"Not only has the Administration elected to discriminate against men from Middle Eastern countries in granting visas, but it has targeted 8,000 Arab male visitors for intensive questioning. Surely in 21st century America we can do better than saying that if you are Arab, you are a suspect. I urge the President and the Attorney General to replace these prejudicial policies with competent execution of immigration laws and more effective intelligence gathering and police work. There is no reason to sacrifice the constitution in pursuit of national security."

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